SHANNON HILLS WATER, SEWER, AND FIRE DEPARTMENTS Shannon Hills, Arkansas FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION For the Year Ended December 31, 2022 and INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

SHANNON HILLS WATER, SEWER, AND FIRE DEPARTMENTS FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

<u>Contents</u>		Page
Independent Au	ditor's Report	1-2
Statement of Ne	t Position	3
Statement of Re	venues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position	4
Statement of Ca	sh Flows	5
Notes to Financi	al Statements	
Note 1 - Note 2 - Note 3 - Note 4 - Note 5 - Note 6 -	Summary of Significant Accounting Policies Restricted Cash Deposits with Financial Institutions Capital Assets Retirement Plan Long-Term Debt.	6-7 8 8 8 9 10
Compliance	ditor's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting and on and Other Matters Based on an Audit of Financial Statements n Accordance with <i>Government Auditing Standards</i>	11-12
Schedule of Find	lings and Responses	13

Supplementary Information	
Supplementary Information	14



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Page 1

Honorable Mike Kemp, Mayor Shannon Hills City Council Shannon Hills, Arkansas

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Water, Sewer, and Fire Departments of the City of Shannon Hills, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2022, and the related notes to the financial statements, as listed on the table of contents.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the Water, Sewer, and Fire Departments of the City of Shannon Hills as of December 31, 2022, and the respective changes in financial position, and cash flows thereof for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Water, Sewer, and Fire Departments of the City of Shannon Hills, and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Emphasis of Matter

As discussed in Note 1, the financial statements present only the Water, Sewer, and Fire Departments and do not purport to, and do not, present fairly the financial position of the City of Shannon Hills, Arkansas, as of December 31, 2022, and the changes in its financial position, or, where applicable, its cash flows for the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter.

Responsibility of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Departments' ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

11225 Huron Lane, Suite 212 • Little Rock, AR 72211 • 501-227-9044 • Fax 501-227-8791 • <u>itberry@berryassociatescpa.com</u> 2911 Turtle Creek Blvd., Suite 300 • Dallas, TX 75219 • 972-437-2919 PO Box 2485 • Madison, MS 39130 • 601-383-0119

Shannon Hills Water, Sewer, and Fire Departments Shannon Hills, Arkansas

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinions. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgement made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and Government Auditing Standards, we:

• Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.

• Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures including examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.

• Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Water, Sewer, and Fire Departments of the City of Shannon Hills's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.

• Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.

• Conclude whether, in our judgement, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Water, Sewer, and Fire Departments of the City of Shannon Hills's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated December 30, 2024 on our consideration of the Water, Sewer, and Fire Departments of the City of Shannon Hills's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Water, Sewer, and Fire Departments of the City of Shannon Hills's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Berry + associates

BERRY & ASSOCIATES, P.A. Little Rock, Arkansas December 30, 2024

SHANNON HILLS WATER, SEWER, AND FIRE DEPARTMENTS STATEMENT OF NET POSITION December 31, 2022

ASS	<u>SETS</u>								
		Water and Sewer	Fire	Total					
CURRENT ASSETS	-								
Cash and cash equivalents	\$	230,955 \$	473,881 \$	704,836					
Accounts receivable		126,028	10,290	136,318					
Other current asset	-	5,000		5,000					
Total current assets	-	361,983	484,171	846,154					
NON-CURRENT ASSETS									
Restricted cash and cash equivalents		322,379	29,330	351,709					
Capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation	_	4,889,466	286,285	5,175,751					
TOTAL ASSETS	\$_	5,573,828 \$	799,786 \$	6,373,614					
LIABILITIES AND NET POSITION									
CURRENT LIABILITIES	<u>_</u>		•	••••					
Current maturities of long-term debt	\$	204,700 \$	- \$	204,700					
Accounts payable		38,558	922	39,480					
Accrued interest payable Total current liabilities	-	76,340	922	76,340					
I otal current hadilities	-	319,598	922	320,520					
LONG-TERM DEBT, net of current maturities	-	3,712,760		3,712,760					
TOTAL LIABILITIES	-	4,032,358	922	4,033,280					
NET POSITION									
Net investment in capital assets		972,005	286,284	1,258,289					
Temporarily restricted		155,525	-	155,525					
Unrestricted	-	413,940	512,580	926,520					
TOTAL NET POSITION	-	1,541,470	798,864	2,340,334					
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET POSITION	\$	5,573,828 \$	799,786 \$	6,373,614					

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these statements.

Page 4

SHANNON HILLS WATER, SEWER, AND FIRE DEPARTMENTS STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

	Water and Sewer	Fire	Total
OPERATING REVENUES			
Water revenue	\$ 484,748 \$	- \$	484,748
Sewer revenue	557,959	-	557,959
Connection and special service fees	106,025	-	106,025
Penalty revenue	52,818	-	52,818
Fire dues	-	124,031	124,031
Act 833		29,915	29,915
Total operating revenues	1,201,550	153,946	1,355,496
OPERATING EXPENSES			
Advertising	-	4,972	4,972
Bank service charges	909	71	980
Water purchased	206,934	-	206,934
Repairs and maintenance	19,089	12,840	31,929
Plant material and supplies	190,149	-	190,149
Professional fees	17,005	4,500	21,505
Dues and fees	23,932	860	24,792
Salaries	197,242	49,559	246,801
Payroll taxes	23,683	1,926	25,609
Retirement expense	40,546	5,622	46,168
Small equipment	4,064	15,901	19,965
Office expense	22,557	261	22,818
Depreciation	269,338	32,319	301,657
Utilities	84,341	9,626	93,967
Fuel and oil	29,190	5,027	34,217
Uniforms	11,495	1,199	12,694
Contract labor	81,146	1,413	82,559 88,702
Insurance Miscellaneous	75,707 792	12,995 3,447	88,702 4,239
Total operating expenses	1,298,119	162,538	1,460,657
OPERATING LOSS	(96,569)	(8,592)	(105,161)
NON-OPERATING REVENUES (EXPENSES)			
Interest income	2,299	276	2,575
Interest expense	(136,807)	-	(136,807)
Bond trust fees	(2,803)	-	(2,803)
Other revenue	23,737	-	23,737
Net non-operating income (expenses)	(113,574)	276	(113,298)
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)			
Transfers in	12,615	-	12,615
Transfers out		(12,615)	(12,615)
Total other financing sources	12,615	(12,615)	
CHANGE IN NET POSITION	(197,528)	(20,931)	(218,459)
NET POSITION - BEGINNING OF YEAR	1,738,998	819,795	2,558,793
NET POSITION - END OF YEAR	\$ 1,541,470 \$	798,864 \$	2,340,334

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these statements.

Page 5

SHANNON HILLS WATER, SEWER, AND FIRE DEPARTMENTS STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

		Water & Sewer	Fire	Total
Cash flows from operating activities:				
Cash received from customers	\$	1,199,284 \$	153,693 \$	1,352,977
Cash payments to employees		(197,242)	(49,559)	(246,801)
Cash payments for supplies		(819,542)	(80,673)	(900,215)
Net cash provided by operating activities		182,500	23,461	205,961
Cash flows from investing activities:				
Change in restricted cash		3,782	(2,434)	1,348
Other non operating revenue		23,737	-	23,737
Interest received		2,299	276	2,575
Transfers to other funds		-	(12,615)	(12,615)
Transfers from other funds	_	12,615	-	12,615
Net cash provided (used) by investing activities	-	42,433	(14,773)	27,660
Cash flows from capital and related financing activities:				
Purchases of capital assets		(6,473)	(111,515)	(117,988)
Principal payments on long-term debt		(193,935)	-	(193,935)
Bond fees on long-term debt		(2,803)	-	(2,803)
Interest payments on long-term debt		(139,464)	-	(139,464)
Net cash used by financing activities		(342,675)	(111,515)	(454,190)
NET DECREASE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS		(117,742)	(102,827)	(220,569)
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	-	348,697	576,708	925,405
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT END OF YEAR	\$	230,955 \$	473,881 \$	704,836
Reconciliation of operating loss to net cash provided by operating activities:				
Operating Loss	\$	(96,569) \$	(8,592) \$	(105,161)
Adjustments to reconcile operating loss to net cash provided by operating activities:				
Depreciation		269,338	32,319	301,657
(Increase) Decrease in: Accounts receivable Increase (Decrease) in:		(1,830)	(254)	(2,084)
Accounts payable		21,598	(12)	21,586
Due to other funds	-	(10,037)		(10,037)
	-	279,069	32,053	311,122
Net cash provided by operating activities	\$	182,500 \$	23,461 \$	205,961

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these statements.

NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Date of Management's Review

Subsequent events have been evaluated through December 30, 2024, which is the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

Reporting Entity

The Shannon Hills Water and Sewer Department is an enterprise fund of the City of Shannon Hills, Arkansas. The enterprise fund accounts for its activities similar to a private business. Operational activities of the Water and Sewer Departments include the administration, operation and maintenance of the water system and billing collection activities. All costs are financed through charges to customers.

The Shannon Hills Fire Department is a special revenue fund of the City of Shannon Hills, Arkansas. The special revenue fund is used to account for and report the proceeds of fire dues that are restricted or committed to expenditure for the specified purposes of operating the Fire Department.

Basis of Presentation and Accounting

The accounts of the Water and Sewer Department and the Fire Department are organized on the basis of a proprietary fund type, specifically an enterprise fund and special revenue fund, respectively. The activities of these funds are accounted for with a separate set of self-balancing accounts that comprise the Water and Sewer Department's, and the Fire Department's assets, liabilities, net assets, revenues and expenses. Enterprise funds account for activities (i) that are financed with debt that is secured solely by a pledge of the net revenues from fees and changes of the activity; or (ii) that are required by laws or regulations that the activity's costs of providing services, including capital costs (such as depreciation or debt service), be recovered with fees and charges designed to recover its costs, including capital costs (such as depreciation or debt service).

The accounting and financial reporting treatment applied to the Water, Sewer, and Fire Departments are determined by its measurement focus. The transactions of the Water, Sewer, and Fire Departments are accounted for on a flow of economic resources measurement focus. With this measurement focus, all assets and all liabilities associated with the operations are included on the statement of net assets. Net position (i.e., total assets net of total liabilities) is segregated into invested in capital assets, net of related debt; restricted for debt service; and unrestricted components.

Estimates

Management of the Water, Sewer, and Fire Departments have made certain estimates and assumptions relating to the reporting of assets and liabilities and revenues and expenses to prepare these financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles. Actual results may differ from those estimates.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

The Water, Sewer, and Fire Departments consider all highly liquid investments (including restricted cash and investments) with maturities of three months or less when purchased to be cash equivalents. Certificate of deposits are presented at fair value. Short-term investments generally mature or are otherwise available for withdrawal in less than one year.

Adoption of GASB 87

Effective January 1, 2022, the Departments adopted GASB 87, Leases. The new standard establishes a right of use (ROU) model that requires a lessee to record an ROU asset and a lease liability on the balance sheet for all leases with terms longer than 12 months. Leases with a term of less than 12 months will not record a right of use asset and lease liability and the payments will be recognized into profit or loss on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

Results for periods beginning prior to January 1, 2022 continue to be reported in accordance with our historical accounting treatment, based on relief provided in the practical expedients of this new standard. The adoption of GASB 87 did not have a material impact on the Departments' results of operations or cash flows.

Capital Assets

The cost of additions and major replacements of retired units of property are capitalized. The Water, Sewer, and Fire Departments defines capital assets as assets with an initial, individual cost of more than \$1,000 and an estimated useful life in excess of two years. Cost includes direct labor, outside services, materials and transportation, employee fringe benefits, overhead, and interest on Departments borrowed to finance construction. The cost and accumulated depreciation of property sold or retired is deducted from capital assets and any profit or loss resulting from the disposal is credited or charged in the non-operating section of the statements of revenues, expenses and changes in net assets. The cost of current repairs, maintenance, and minor replacements is charged to expense. Construction in progress primarily relates to upgrades of existing facilities.

NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES, continued:

Depreciation has been provided over estimated useful lives of the assets using the straight-line method. The estimated useful lives are as follows:

Asset	Years
Vehicles	5-15 years
Water & Sewer Facilities	5-40 years
Building	5-40 years
Equipment	5-15 years
Improvements	5-15 years
Office Furniture	5-10 years

Long-Term Debt and Costs

Long-term debt is reported at face value, net of applicable discounts and deferred loss on refunding. Costs related to the issuance of debt are deferred and amortized over the lives of the various debt issues. Losses occurring from advance refunding of debt are deferred and amortized as interest expense over the remaining life of the old bonds, or the life of the new bonds, whichever is shorter.

Operating Revenues and Expenses

Operating revenues and expenses consist of those revenues that result from the ongoing principal operations of the Water, Sewer, and Fire Departments. Operating revenues consist primarily of charges for services. Non-operating revenues and expenses consist of those revenues and expenses that are related to financing and investing type of activities and result from non-exchange transactions or ancillary activities. When an expense is incurred for purposes for which there are both restricted and unrestricted net assets available, it is the Water, Sewer, and Fire Departments' policy to apply those expenses to unrestricted net assets to the extent such are available and then to restricted net assets.

Equity Classifications

Net position comprises the various net earnings from operating income, non-operating revenues and expenses, and capital contributions. Net position is classified in the following three components:

Net Investment in Capital Assets- Consists of capital assets including restricted capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation and reduced by the outstanding balances of any bonds, mortgages, notes, or other borrowings that are attributable to the acquisition, construction, or improvement of those assets.

Temporarily Restricted- This component of net position consists of constraints imposed by creditors (such as through debt covenants), grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments or constraints imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.

Unrestricted - This component of net position consists of net position that does not meet the definition of "restricted."

Receivables

The Departments have elected to record bad debts using the direct write-off method. Generally accepted accounting principles require that the allowance method be used to recognize bad debts; however as of December 31, 2022 management had determined that minimal accounts needed to be written off. Bad debt expense for the year ended December 31, 2022 was \$0.

Restricted Assets

Certain proceeds of the Departments' revenue, as well as certain resources set aside for the bond repayment and bond agreement requirements, are classified as restricted assets on the Statement of Net Position, because they are maintained in separate bank accounts and their use is limited by applicable bond covenants.

Budgets and Budgetary Accounting

Prior to the beginning of the new year, the City Council adopts an annual budget for the Department. The budget of the Departments is adopted under a basis consistent with GAAP, except that depreciation, certain capital expenses, and nonoperation income and expense items are not considered. All annual appropriations lapse at year-end.

NOTE 2 - RESTRICTED CASH

Restricted assets consist of cash reserves restricted by long-term debt covenants. The long-term debt covenants require minimum reserves for debt service reserves (see Note 6).

Act 833 Account

The State of Arkansas created Act 833 whereby funds related to insurance premiums are turned back to various rural fire departments. The fire department is restricted to using the proceeds for items such as turnouts and certain fire fighting equipment. The Act 833 cash account represents the balance of undisbursed monies as of December 31, 2022.

Restricted cash held for specific purposes are as follows:

Debt Service Reserves	\$ 155,525
Bond Fund	166,854
Act 833	29,330
Total Restricted Cash	\$ 351,709

NOTE 3 – PUBLIC DEPARTMENTS: DEPOSITS WITH FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS:

As required by law, all funds are deposited in approved banks. The deposited funds are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation ("FDIC") or collateralized by securities held by the banks in the Water, Sewer, and Fire Department's name.

NOTE 4 - CAPITAL ASSETS

Capital asset activity for the year ended December 31, 2022 was as follows:

	Balanc	e at			Disposals/	Balance at
Description	December	31, 2021	Additions		Transfers	December 31, 2022
Land	\$	36,218 \$	-	\$	-	\$ 36,218
Land, Wetlands Project		56,541	-		-	56,541
Building	1	08,122	-		-	108,122
Equipment	1,0	66,357	8,000		-	1,074,357
Fire Department		12,408	-		-	12,408
Improvements	1	43,813	-		-	143,813
Office Furniture		13,876	-		-	13,876
Truck & Equipment	5	15,228	6,473		-	521,701
Water & Sewer Facilities	8,3	69,983	-		-	8,369,983
Construction in Progress		16,500	103,515		-	120,015
Total Capital Assets	10,3	39,046	117,988		-	10,457,034
Accumulated Depreciation	(4,9	79,626)	(301,657)		-	 (5,281,283)
Net Capital Assets	\$5,3	\$ \$	(183,669)	\$ =		\$ 5,175,751

NOTE 5 - RETIREMENT PLAN

Plan Description. The Shannon Hills Water, Sewer, and Fire Departments contribute to the Arkansas Public Employees Retirement System (APERS), a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan that covers municipal employees whose municipalities have elected coverage under this System. APERS provides retirement and disability benefits, annual cost-of-living adjustments, and death benefits to plan members and beneficiaries. Benefit provisions are established by State law and can be amended only by the Arkansas General Assembly. The Arkansas Public Employees Retirement System issues a publicly available financial report that includes financial statements and required supplementary information for APERS. That report may be obtained by writing to Arkansas Public Employees Retirement System, One Union National Plaza, 124 W. Capitol, Little Rock, AR 72201 or by calling 1-800-682-7377.

Funding Policy. APERS has contributory and non-contributory plans. Contributory members are required by code to contribute 5% of their salary. Beginning July 1, 2022, the contribution rates shall be increased in increments of .25% per fiscal year, not to exceed 7%. The contributory rate was increased to 5.25% as of July 1, 2022. Each participating employer is required by code to contribute at a rate established by the Board of Trustees of the system based on the annual actuarial valuation. The current employer rate is 15.32% of annual covered payroll. The Department's contributions to APERS for the years ending December 31, 2022 was \$46,168 equal to the required contributions for the year.

Requirements. GASB issued Statement No. 68, Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions – an Amendment of GASB Statement No. 27, which establishes standards for public pension plan obligations for participating employers. A cost-sharing employer whose employees receive pensions through a trust will report in the financial statements a net pension liability, deferred outflows or inflows of resources related to pensions, and pension expense based on its' proportionate share of the collective net pension liability of all employers in the plan. A net pension liability can be volatile due to changes in actuarial estimates and the actual investment return. These financial statements do not include the disclosure related to this accounting principal, but would be included in the government wide financial statements and not the individual fund financial statements.

NOTE 6 - LONG-TERM DEBT:

Long-term debt at December 31, 2022 consists of the following:

Series 2015 Refunding Bond, payable to First Arkansas Bank & Trust, due in monthly installments of variable amounts, including interest at a variable rate, beginning July 2015 through July 2039. (1)	\$	3,840,000
Loan from Bancorp South, due in monthly installments of \$1,077, including interest at a rate of 2.59%, beginning January 2021 through March 2024. Secured by equipment. (2)		15,880
Loan from Bancorp South, due in monthly installments of \$1,535, including interest at a rate of 2.59%, beginning June 2021 through June 2026. Secured by equipment. (2)		61,580
Total Long Term Debt	-	3,917,460
Less Current Portion	_	(204,700)
Long-Term Portion	\$	3,712,760

(1) The revenue bonds have restrictive covenants including the requirement to maintain a debt service reserve in the amount of \$155,525.

(2) This loan has no restrictive covenants.

NOTE 6 - LONG-TERM DEBT, continued:

Future debt service payments are as follows:

	1	Principal	Interest	Total
2023	\$	204,700 \$	115,325	\$ 320,025
2024		195,720	109,361	305,081
2025		202,900	103,700	306,600
2026		204,140	106,910	311,050
2027		195,000	110,200	305,200
2028-2032		1,075,000	451,477	1,526,477
2033-2037		1,270,000	250,927	1,520,927
2038-2039		570,000	32,250	602,250
	\$	3,917,460 \$	1,280,150	\$ 5,197,610

Long-term liability activity for the year ended December 31, 2022 is as follows:

		Balance				Balance	Due Within
	_	12/31/2021	 Additions	 Retirements	_	12/31/2022	 One Year
Revenue Bonds	\$	4,005,000	\$ -	\$ (165,000)	\$	3,840,000	\$ 175,000
Loans	_	106,395	 -	 (28,935)	_	77,460	 29,700
	\$	4,111,395	\$ -	\$ (193,935)	\$_	3,917,460	\$ 204,700

The Departments have pledged future customer revenues, net of specified operating expenses, to repay \$3,917,460 in revenue bonds and loans. Proceeds from the bonds and loans were used for constructing the Departments' office and purchase of equipment. Principal and interest on the bonds and loans are payable through 2039, solely from the customer net revenues. Principal and interest paid in the year ended December 31, 2022 were \$193,935 and \$139,464 respectively.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION



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Page 11

Honorable Mike Kemp, Mayor Shannon Hills City Council Shannon Hills, Arkansas

INDEPENDET AUDITOR'S REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH *GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS*

We have audited, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the Shannon Hills Water, Sewer, and Fire Departments, (the Departments), as of and for the year ended December 31, 2022, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Departments' financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated December 30, 2024.

Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the Departments' internal control over financial reporting (internal control) to determine the audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Departments' internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Departments' internal control.

A *deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or combination of deficiencies, in internal control such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected in a timely basis. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies and therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. We did identify certain deficiencies in internal control, described in the accompanying schedule of findings and responses as item number 2022-001 and 2022-002 that we consider to be significant deficiencies.

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Departments' financial statements are free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

11225 Huron Lane, Suite 212 • Little Rock, AR 72211 • 501-227-9044 • Fax 501-227-8791 • <u>itberry@berryassociatescpa.com</u> 2911 Turtle Creek Blvd., Suite 300 • Dallas, TX 75219 • 972-437-2919 PO Box 2485 • Madison, MS 39130 • 601-383-0119

Honorable Mike Kemp, Mayor Shannon Hills City Council Shannon Hills, Arkansas

Departments' Response to Findings

Government Auditing Standards requires the auditor to perform limited procedures on the Departments' response to the findings identified in our audit and described in the accompanying schedule of findings. The Departments' responses were not subjected to the other auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and, accordingly, we express no opinion on it.

Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the entity's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

Berry + associates

Berry & Associates, P.A. Little Rock, Arkansas December 30, 2024

SHANNON HILLS WATER, SEWER, AND FIRE DEPARTMENTS SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND RESPONSES December 31, 2022

2022-001 Internal Control – Segregation of Duties

<u>Criteria</u>: The segregation of duties and responsibilities between different individuals for custody of assets, recordkeeping and those assets and reconciliation of those asset accounts is an important control activity needed to adequately protect the entity's assets and ensure accurate financial reporting.

<u>Condition</u>: Presently the same individual is responsible for service billing, receiving customer payments, and posting payments to subsidiary accounts receivable ledger. This finding was also noted in 2021.

Cause: The Departments' limited size and staffing resources have made it difficult for management to provide sufficient staffing to fully segregate incompatible duties in a cost-effective manner.

<u>Effect or Potential Effect:</u> Without sufficient segregation of duties, the risk significantly increases that errors and fraud related to utility billing and collection activities, including misappropriation of assets, could occur and not be detected within a timely basis.

<u>Recommendation</u>: We recommend that management and the City Council should consider a formal evaluation of their risks associated with this lack of duty segregation over cash and receivables. In response to the identified risks, consideration should be given to identifying and implementing controls that could help mitigate the risks associated with lack of segregation of duties, such as providing increased management oversight. For example, the entity might consider soliciting the assistance of an independent volunteer to perform certain functions including to act as compensating procedures where applicable.

<u>View of Responsible Officials</u>: The Departments concurs with the recommendation, although, the cost to correct this condition might exceed the benefit, the Departments have made certain changes in procedures that will improve the overall lack of segregation of duties and has implemented compensating procedures as applicable.

2022-002 Internal Control – Complete set of accounting records

Criteria: Maintaining a complete set of accounting records.

<u>Condition</u>: At December 31, 2022 the Departments' general ledger did not include the current year's transactions for several trust accounts that are administered by third parties that are a material part of the financial statements. This finding was also noted in 2021.

Cause: The Departments did not properly record transactions and maintain accounting records.

<u>Effect or Potential Effect:</u> General ledger accounts were not properly accounted for in the Departments' internal financial statements. With these accounts missing, it does not permit the preparation of accurate and reliable financial statements.

<u>Recommendation</u>: We recommend that management of the Departments properly records all transactions and appropriately maintains all accounting records in a timely manner.

View Of Responsible Officials: The Departments concurs with the recommendation.

SHANNON HILLS WATER, SEWER, AND FIRE DEPARTMENTS SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION December 31, 2022

THE CITY COUNCIL:

TITLE NAMES Mike Kemp Mayor Robin Baker Recorder Mary Meyers Treasurer Toni Blackwell Alderman James Frala Alderman Keith Andrews Alderman Jill Hatcher Alderman Mary Guinn Alderman

WATER RATE SCHEDULE:

Scott Bennett

			Water	Sewer
Gallons			(Per 1,000 Gallons)	(Per 1,000 Gallons)
Minimum	1,500	\$	14.10	\$ 18.70
Remaining			4.13	3.30
			Flat Rate	
Safe Water		\$	0.40	
Fire Dues			6.00	
Regional Water			0.25	
Watershed Protection			0.75	

Alderman

ACCOUNTING:

The accounting records were found to be adequate and in agreement with the accompanying financial statements, after giving effect to various adjustments.

Reserve accounts are being properly maintained.